PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have received notice of an adjournment motion.

> "That the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance viz., the situation created by the unabated prevalence of malaria in Pathanamthitta taluk inspite of the measures taken so far."

It appears to me that it was really unnecessary for the honourable member to have tabled this motion. The whole subject can be fully discussed when the Medical and Public Health Demands come up for discussion. It seems to me that it will be very embarrassing to the House if I were to allow a discussion on this adjournment motion which would take up an hour or two of our time. I can really rule it out of order because it is not a matter which has arisen after the first day of this session. But I shall only say that the matter may be raised by the honourable member when the medical demand comes up for discussion. The Surgeon-General has given me a lengthy note on the subject and I dare say he will deal with it when the demand comes up for discussion.

There are two other matters which I wish to mention. Certain questions were asked in this House regarding obstructions of transport from the State to British territory and other places in respect of food grains and some answers were given. I am glad to say that the Government of Madras have since passed orders. I read the order of the Collector of Tinnevelly on the subject;

> "It has been brought to the notice of the Collector that the Police Officers on special duty at Shencottah Frontier are unnecessarily harassing the State Officers taking food grains and other articles from Shencottah to Ashencoil through the intervening British territory though permits were issued by the Travancore Authorities. The Government of Madras have passed strict orders that no such obstruction should take place hereafter and they have warned the Officers concerned."

The other point which is of very great importance and which has been referred to by me at the joint session is this: Intimation has just been received that the UNRRA has agreed to take from India Rs. 6½ crores worth of various goods. Those goods mainly comprise articles which are not needed for the clothing and the feeding of the people of India but articles which the people of India can spare. Amongst the most prominent of those articles are coir, nuts and pepper. As I was endeavouring to point out earlier in the course of my speech on the budget, it depends entirely on the people of Travancore to take such measures as will best conduce to the sale of the greatest possible amount of these commodities which are to a certain extent our monopolies and which can be conveniently exported. It has been stated in the communication which has been received that as far as possible the ordinary trade channels would be utilised. This Government have already warned those interested in coir and pepper against the policy hat has been pursued by them to their own detriment. Especially in the case of pepper I wish to make it perfectly

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clear so that the persons concerned may realise this. As soon as they knew that their pepper was much in demand they pushed up the prices to such an extent that the United Nations came practically to a unanimous conclusion not to buy pepper from India. Gradually, therefore, the price of pepper came down. A deputation of the pepper merchants waited upon me asking me to take control over pepper and get the pepper sold. I pointed out to them that they had been their own enemies and that if they had quoted reasonable rates—if they had increased the price by 50—70 per cent or even 100 per cent. it would have been all right. But they pushed up the prices to such an extent that Travancore pepper became practically unsaleable. The United Nations are now trying again for the purchase.

So far as coir is concerned, when the Industries Demand comes up, I propose to obtain the sense of the whole House on the question whether Government control should continue and if so, under what circumstances. I would like to hear honourable members on that matter.

Similarly with regard to pepper. When the Agricultural Demand comes up, I would like to invite the opinion of the honourable House on that question so that the Government may be benefited by its advice.

The only thing that I wish to say in all these matters—nuts pepper and coir is that we are likely to be able to sell within the next year or thereabouts practically all our surplus provided we go about the business in a proper commercial manner, and the question is how it has to be done. So far as coir is concerned. I have already indicated the lines on which Government have been dealing with the larger producers and manufacturers. It is up to the small manufacturers and producers to organise themselves. If they will not organise they will have to sell their stock to Government. The opportunity is so great and the chances of establishing a world-wide market in coir are so bright that any false step at this stage will be wrong from our point of view.

With regard to pepper I am waiting to hear the remarks of the honourable members.

VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (*contd.*)

DEMAND IX—POLICE.

PRESIDENT : I have received a letter from Mr. P. S. Nataraja Pillai which reads as follows :—

"To the Secretary, Legislative Assembly.

Sir,

Will you please place before the President that our benches thought the discussion on the Police will be limited to that one motion which was moved first.

At any rate is there any possibility to allow one more speaker from our party ?"

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